



# Trends in the Prevalence of Suicide-Related Behaviors

## National YRBS: 1991–2009

The national Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) monitors priority health risk behaviors that contribute to the leading causes of death, disability, and social problems among youth and adults in the United States. The national YRBS is conducted every two years during the spring semester and provides data representative of 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in public and private schools throughout the United States.

1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	Changes from 1991–2009 <sup>1</sup>	Change from 2007–2009 <sup>2</sup>
<b>Seriously considered attempting suicide</b> (during the 12 months before the survey)											
29.0 (27.4–30.5) <sup>3</sup>	24.1 (23.1–25.0)	24.1 (23.0–25.3)	20.5 (18.3–22.9)	19.3 (18.0–20.6)	19.0 (17.7–20.5)	16.9 (16.2–17.6)	16.9 (15.9–17.8)	14.5 (13.4–15.6)	13.8 (13.1–14.6)	Decreased, 1991–2009	No change
<b>Made a plan about how they would attempt suicide</b> (during the 12 months before the survey)											
18.6 (17.1–20.2)	19.0 (17.9–20.2)	17.7 (16.3–19.2)	15.7 (14.4–17.0)	14.5 (13.1–16.1)	14.8 (13.7–16.0)	16.5 (13.2–20.5)	13.0 (12.1–13.9)	11.3 (10.4–12.3)	10.9 (10.0–11.8)	Decreased, 1991–2009	No change
<b>Attempted suicide one or more times</b> (during the 12 months before the survey)											
7.3 (6.4–8.3)	8.6 (7.9–9.5)	8.7 (7.9–9.5)	7.7 (6.8–8.7)	8.3 (7.3–9.4)	8.8 (8.0–9.7)	8.5 (7.4–9.6)	8.4 (7.6–9.3)	6.9 (6.3–7.6)	6.3 (5.7–7.0)	No change, 1991–2001 Decreased, 2001–2009	No change
<b>Suicide attempt resulted in an injury, poisoning, or an overdose that had to be treated by a doctor or nurse</b> (during the 12 months before the survey)											
1.7 (1.4–2.2)	2.7 (2.2–3.3)	2.8 (2.2–3.5)	2.6 (2.1–3.2)	2.6 (2.1–3.2)	2.6 (2.3–3.1)	2.9 (2.2–3.7)	2.3 (1.9–2.8)	2.0 (1.7–2.3)	1.9 (1.6–2.3)	No change, 1991–2003 Decreased, 2003–2009	No change

<sup>1</sup> Based on trend analyses using a logistic regression model controlling for sex, race/ethnicity, and grade.

<sup>2</sup> Based on t-test analyses,  $p < 0.05$ .

<sup>3</sup> 95% confidence interval.

Where can I get more information? Visit [www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth](http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth) or call 800–CDC–INFO (800–232–4636).



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